

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
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P 261100 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4775

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 1253

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAOT: OCON, IR
SUBJECT: DEPSEC VISIT TO NEPAL

REF: STATE 054134; STATE 054135

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, GON HAS ALREADY BEEN INFORMED OF DEPSEC PLANS VISIT AREA VIA AMBASSADOR SHARMA IN WASHINGTON (KATHMANDU 1200 AND PREVIOUS). PURSUANT INSTRUCTIONS, I CALLED TODAY ON FOREIGN MINISTRY JOINT SECRETARY SHARDUL RANA, NOT SO MUCH TO CONFIRM GON CONCURRENCE FOR VISIT (AS THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED), BUT TO EMPHASIZE THAT FOR SECURITY REASONS IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT AS FEW PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE BE APPRISED OF VISIT FOR TIME BEING. ON LATTER POINT, RANA DISPLAYED COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING AND PROMISED GON COOPERATION.

2. RANA ALSO CONFIRMED THAT DURING THEIR VISIT TO NEPAL, DEPSEC RUSH AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AND THEIR WIVES WILL BE CONSIDERED STATE GUESTS. HE STATED GON WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACCOMMODATION. HE ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION APRIL 28-29 DATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. AS FOR PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: RECREATIONAL POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE FLIGHT BY CHARTERED STOL AIRCRAFT TO EVEREST MOUNTAIN REGION AND VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES FOR FASCINATING AND UNIQUE SIGHTSEEING AROUND VALLEY. THESE OF COURSE WILL HAVE TO BE FITTED WITHIN TIME AVAILABLE AROUND SUCH RECEPTIONS, DINNERS, CALLS, ETC. AS MAY BE SCHEDULED. AMBASSADOR LAISE HAS JUST ARRIVED WASHINGTON AND CAN DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES IN DETAIL WITH INDIVIDUALS
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PLANNING TRIP.

4. WEATHER SHOULD BE PLEASANT, WARM DURING DAYTIME AND MILD TO COOL DURING EVENING AND EARLY MORNING HOURS. LIGHT BUSINESS SUIT, BUSH- SHIRT, AND PERHAPS A PULLOVER SHOULD BE ALL WITH COMPARABLE GARB FOR LAIDES; SITUATION REQUIRES WE DO NOT CURRENTLY ANTICIPATE ANY REQUIREMENT FOR FORMAL DRESS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF EXACT ARRIVAL TIME. ITINERARY IN STATE 51636 SAYS ETD NEW DELHI IS SATURDAY, APRIL 28, AT 0800; ETA KATHMANDU IS 1210. SINCE NORMAL JET TRAVEL TIME IS UNDER 90 MINUTES, PLEASE CORRECT OR CONFIRM. COON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KATHMA01253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730337/aaaaihfd.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 054134, 73 STATE 054135
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971229
Subject: DEPSEC VISIT TO NEPAL
TAGS: OCON, n/a
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005